REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated February 27, 2006. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

By the above amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 5 and 11 have been amended; and new claim 12 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-12 are currently pending in the present application.

Next, to facilitate the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, the specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised in order to make a number of minor clarifying and other editorial amendments. To facilitate entry of the amendments, a substitute specification and abstract has been prepared. No new matter has been added. Also enclosed is a "marked-up" copy of the original specification and abstract to show the changes that have been incorporated into the substitute specification and abstract. The enclosed copy is entitled "*Version with Markings to Show Changes Made*."

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-10 are allowed. Note that claims 1 and 3-5 have been amended for the purpose of making minor clarifying changes. Thus, these amendments do not further restrict or narrow the scope of the claims.

Further, on page 2 of the Office Action, claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakano et al. (US 2002/018974). In response, claim 11 has been amended to clearly distinguish over the Nakano reference. In particular, claim 11 now requires, inter alia: *a thermal-stress generation member for generating a compression stress in an upper portion of the light emission portion so as to relieve a tensile stress in the upper portion of the light emission portion caused by a temperature change at a time of switching the high-pressure*

discharge lamp from an on status to an off status. Support for the new language of claim 11 can be found in at least paragraphs [0023], [0029] and [0036] of the specification as originally filed.

In the rejection, the Examiner explains that Nakano discloses:

"a thermal stress generation member (Fig. 4, 40; Page 4, Paragraph [0035]; Pages 4-5, Paragraphs [0040]-[0041]) for generating thermal stress by a temperature change at a time of switching the high pressure discharge lamp from an on status to an off status so that the thermal stress generates a compression stress in an upper portion of the light emission portion (Page 2, Paragraph [0015])."

Nakano discloses an electric discharge lamp having a stress buffering member 40 (see Fig. 3) in the form of a tube provided between an outer end of narrow tube 12 and an electricity introducing member 23. However, as indicated above, claim 11 now requires a thermal-stress generation member for generating a compression stress in an upper portion of the light emission portion.

The Nakano stress buffering member 40 clearly does not correspond to the thermal-stress generation member defined in claim 11. The Nakano member is interposed between the electricity introducing member 23 and the narrow tube 12 for the purpose of relieving a thermal stress generated in the electricity introducing member 23 thereby protecting a seal portion. Clearly, the Nakano member does not function to generate a compression stress in an upper portion of the light emission portion (tube 11 in Nakano). The provision of the Nakano stress buffering member does not generate any type of stress in the tube 11.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 11, as amended, now clearly distinguishes over the Nakano reference.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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